

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Folding methods and patterns for folding an inflatable airbag for use in vehicles.

5 The folding patterns and methods of the invention assist in controlling the trajectory of the airbag cushion during deployment. More specifically, the methods and patterns of the invention may be used to deploy an overhead airbag cushion forward and downward along a windshield to place a portion of the airbag cushion rapidly in front of a vehicle occupant before the cushion has the opportunity to inflate significantly in a longitudinal direction to provide support and deceleration to a vehicle occupant. These methods result in airbag deployment which may prevent injury to out-of-position vehicle occupants.

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